

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:CEK
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NEA/IAI - MR KORN

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NEA/EGY - MR MARTHINSEN

NEA/ARP - MR TWINAM

-----039786 020213Z /66

O 020052Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
SECDEF WASHDC 0893
JCS WASHDC 0687
CIA WASHDC 0694
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0536
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST

1. THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT
PRESS OFFICE LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 1.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP?

ANSWER: -- A NEW SITUATION HAS BEEN CREATED BY PRESIDENT
SADAT'S STATEMENT SUNDAY THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED TO CON-
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TINUE DIRECT EXCHANGES UNLESS IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE
BASIS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THE RETURN OF ARAB TERRITORIES
ISRAEL OCCUPIED IN 1967.

--THE SECRETARY'S PURPOSE IN GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST IS TO
HEAR FIRSTHAND FROM THE LEADERS IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL THEIR
VIEWS ON HOW TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD IN THIS NEW
SITUATION. HE WILL HEAR THEIR VIEWS AND RETURN TO WASHING-
TON TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT.

QUESTION: WILL THE SECRETARY BE SHUTTTLING BETWEEN EGYPT AND
ISRAEL?

ANSWER: --NO. HE WILL VISIT EACH COUNTRY ONCE AND THEN

RETURN TO WASHINGTON FROM ALEXANDRIA TO REPORT TO THE
PRESIDENT.

QUESTION: DOES THE SECRETARY PROPOSE TO DELIVER AN
AMERICAN PEACE PLAN TO THE PARTIES DURING THIS VISIT?

ANSWER: --NO. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT WE ARE PRE-

PARED TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR NARROWING THE GAPS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEGOTIATING EXCHANGE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP IS TO FIND WAYS OF RESUMING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

--WE HAVE ALSO SAID REPEATEDLY THAT WHEN TIMES COME IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WHEN WE AS MEDIATORS CAN HELP DEFINE COMMON GROUND AND SUGGEST AREAS FOR COMPROMISE, WE WILL PUT FORWARD OUR IDEAS AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST WHEN THIS SEEMS USEFUL.

QUESTION: WILL AMBASSADOR ATHERTON CONTINUE HIS TALKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

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ANSWER: --HE WILL PROBABLY RETURN TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY. END.

2. ALSO, SPOKESMAN WAS PROVIDED WITH BELOW GUIDANCE, AFTERNOON AUGUST 1.

THE SECRETARY IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN ISRAEL LATE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 5. HE WILL REMAIN THERE UNTIL MID-DAY AUGUST 7 WHEN HE DEPARTS FOR ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT. HE WILL REMAIN IN EGYPT UNTIL AUGUST 9, WHEN HE PLANS TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D.C. END.

VANCE

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